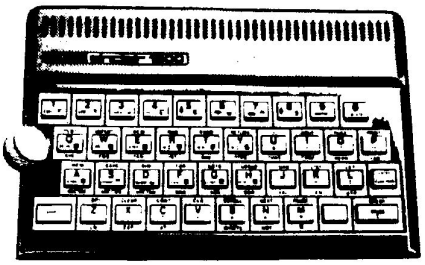


TIMELINEZ

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 4/5 APRIL/MAY 1985 $1.00

COMPUTER FAIRE REMINISCENCES

by Bill Miller

During the 1985 11th Annual West Coast Computer Faire, the TIMELINEZ user groups had booth #943.

We wish to thank Mary Beth Wilson, Computer Faire Operations Manager and David Sudkin, President Computer Faire, Inc. for making this booth available at no cost.

During the Faire we distributed approximately seven cases (1750) QL Brochures.

We sold 16 newsletters and collecctd $16.

We handed out approximately 100 partial newsletters with TIMELINEZ group meeting information and TIMLINEZ Guides contact information for help on specific hardware and software.

Approximately 150 people signed our Timex Sinclair mailing list and received a free Sunset Electronics Catalog (provided by John Warburton).

QL REPORT

by Bill Miller

QL Report

During the 11Th Annual West Coast Computer Faire, a Sinclair QL was demonstrated in the Bay Area Timex Sinclair Users Groups (TIMELINEZ Groups) booth.

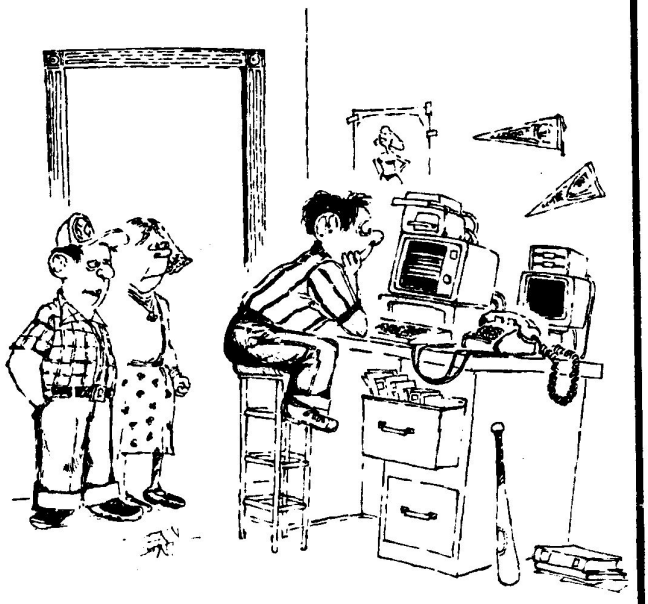
Although we didn't have much time to do a thorough evaluation, we were intrigued by the potential this machine showed.

Probably the greatest concern about the QL regards the QL Microdrives. The demonstration program supplied, accessed the Microdrives approximately every 20-30 minutes and we didn't have a failure in four days of continuous running.

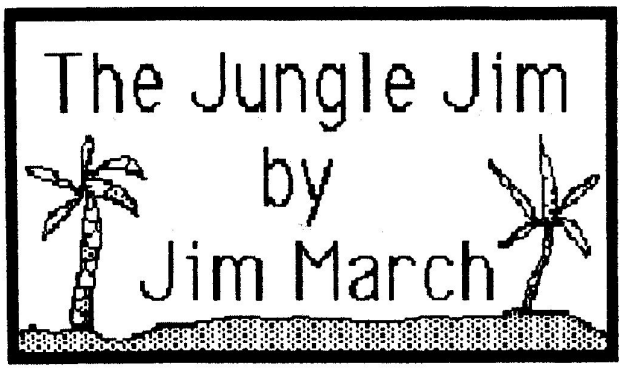
Sometimes the program would stop because we had removed the Microdrive Cartridge to show it to someone. The program would

(CONT. ON BACK PAGE)

```
 100 REM **** SOME SOUND EFFECTS
 110 REM ****  BY DOUGLAS HARTER
 115 PRINT "MACHINE GUN FIRE..."
 120 FOR X=255 TO 0 STEP -5: SOU
ND 0,X;1,4;7,48;8,16;11,1;13,10:
 PAUSE 4: NEXT X: SOUND 8,0
 125 PRINT "FIVE CLUNKS..."''
 130 FOR Z=1 TO 5
 135 SOUND 6,13;7,7;8,16;9,16;10
,16;12,5;13,0: PAUSE 30: SOUND 8
,0;9,0;10,0
 140 NEXT Z
 145 PRINT "A SCREAMING BOMB..."
 150 FOR X=10 TO 95: SOUND 0,X;1
,0;7,26;8,15: PAUSE 1: NEXT X: S
OUND 8,0
 155 PAUSE 50
 160 PRINT "A SHORT ROAR..."''
 165 FOR X=5 TO 15: SOUND 6,13;7
,7;8,X;9,X;10,X;12,10;13,14: PAU
SE 5: NEXT X: SOUND 8,0;9,0;10,0
 170 PRINT AT 10,5;"...AND THREE
 SLOW PINGS..."
 175 FOR X=100 TO 5 STEP -1: SOU
ND 0,50;1,0;7,62;8,X;12,10;13,13
: PAUSE 5: NEXT X: SOUND 8,0
 180 PRINT AT 15,5;"GOODNIGHT...
"
```



"HE USE TO BE A GREAT HACKER UNTIL A LARGE CORPORATION STOLE ON TO **HIS** COMPUTER AND ERASED ALL HIS BOOK REPORTS."



For those of you who have used large computer systems, you know they have their use and place. However, there is nothing like your own system for getting "glossy" program applications done. One aspect of a "glossy" program is its data input/output formatting and ease of use. For "user friendly" programs, nothing beats a good menu! On large systems, a menu is a computing and/or space hog. It takes a dedicated processor to get the most out of a menu driven program. Small computer systems will always have "glossier" programs when it comes to menus!

MENU A menu is a screen display which lists a number of possible options and asks the user to select one. A selection is made by keying in an identifying number or letter, or by positioning the cursor beside the desired item, using a light pen, etc. This may require either a branch or subroutine call to the code for the function; alternately, the program to carry out this function may be loaded into memory and executed.

Many application packages use a system of multiple menus. A Master Menu lists the major functions allowed. Selection of an option on the Master Menu causes another menu to display, indicating more detailed options for the selected function. This can be followed by even more detailed menus, and so on. Often completion of a function will cause re-display of the Master Menu. Such a system is called menu driven.

For the TS1000, menus are easy to build into your program. Here is a quick outline of a Master Menu:

```
0100  REM INITIALIZE SOME VARS.
0110  LET GETKEYPRESSED = 7000
0120  LET DISPLAYMENU = 7100
1000  REM MAIN MENU
1010  GOSUB DISPLAYMENU
1020  GOSUB GETKEYPRESSED
1030  IF KEYPRESSED = CODE "A" THEN GOTO 2000
1040  IF KEYPRESSED = CODE "B" THEN GOTO 3000
1090  GOTO 1000
2000  REM MENU OPTION (A) CHOSEN
2010  CLS
2020  PRINT "YOU SELECTED OPTION (A)"
2030  PAUSE 4E4
2090  GOTO 1000
3000  REM MENU OPTION (B) CHOSEN
3010  CLS
3020  PRINT "YOU SELECTED OPTION (B)"
3030  PAUSE 4E4
3090  GOTO 1000
7000  REM GET KEY PRESSED SUBROUTINE
7010  IF INKEY$ <> "" THEN GOTO 7010
7020  LET KEYPRESSED = CODE INKEY$
7030  IF KEYPRESSED = 0 THEN GOTO 7020
7090  RETURN
7100  REM DISPLAY MENU SUBROUTINE
7110  FAST
7120  CLS
7130  PRINT "CHOOSE YOUR OPTION BY PRESSING A
KEY:"
7140  PRINT
7150  PRINT " (A) OPTION A"
7160  PRINT " (B) OPTION B"
7170  SLOW
7190  RETURN
```

That's all for today. Good luck and good computing!

Sections of this article are reprinted courtesy of The Book Company, Los Angeles, from the book The Timex/Sinclair User's Encyclopedia by G. Phillips and J. March, 1984.

****

Copies of The Timex/Sinclair User's Encyclopedia are available for $13.00 (includes postage and handling) from Jim March, 3216 Partridge Ave., Oakland, Ca., 94605 or for $14.95 plus tax at bookstores (including Stacey's in Palo Alto and San Francisco).

****

Do you have a little-used TS1000 or ZX81 which you would like to dedicate to a worthwhile and multi-faceted application? Well, Power Squeezer is a hardware/software package for the TS 1000/ZX 81 (16K) which provides computerized control of nearly any electrical device in the home or workplace. Essentially it consists of a carrier-current interface transmitter designed to work with BSR appliance and lamp modules providing on-off control of up to 256 channels. The software included allows automatic control of 20 channels with up to two on/off cycles per 24-hour period and individual daily scheduling. The documentation explains several possible variations on the basic programming format including the possibility of incorporating control into your own programs.

For those not aquainted with the BSR home control components, a few words of explanation might be helpful. The BSR system has been around for several years and is now readily available from several sources including Sears, Leviton, Radio Shack and DAK. The actual components in the system include controllers (manual, timed, and remote) and receiver modules (appliance, incandescent lamp, wall outlet, and wall switch). The controllers are transmitters that send coded digital signals over the home wiring to the receiver modules into which are plugged lamps, appliances, whatever you wish to control. One receiver module is required for each device to be controlled. Fortunately, these modules are relatively inexpensive ($13-$18 each).

The Power Squeezer unit either replaces or supplements the BSR controller allowing extremely flexible programmed control of any electrical item including home heating systems, lights, audio equipment, appliances, you name it! Radio Shack has an interface module for alarm systems which turns on lights and other modules when the alarm sounds. The possibilities are endless!

The Power Squeezer unit connects to the computer's mic and ear ports which leaves the rear connector free. An A.C. cord powers the unit and inputs the digital signals to the house wiring.

Setting up the control programming is a bit complicated at first although the documentation is clear and comprehensive. The most obvious weakness in the system is the inevitable inaccuracy of the software clock. It is in applications such as this where we really miss a real time clock in our computer. Coarse and fine adjustments are provided but resetting is still needed at least once a week or more often if accuracy is a great concern.

All in all, Power Squeezer does what it is supposed to do very well. Many applications are suggested in the documentaion. Each user would, no doubt, be able to come up with many other uses. Power Squeezer is a neat hardware/software package. It is available for $69.95 from:

Chuck Goldwater
714 Wimbledon Lane
Livermore, CA 94550
(415) 449-2061

Modified units are available for TS1500 and 2068 computers. Call or write for prices.

John Hancock
(415) 342-8457

ADD CUSTOM PRINTER FEATURES TO TASWORD 'HELP' PAGES

by

Nora Lehfeldt

Tasword Two is one of the most popular word processors for the Spectrum/TS 2068 computers. As it is supplied by its manufacturers, it contains a help page and printer codes for the Epson FX80 printer. Although the program provides a facility for altering the printer-control codes, the help page is still referenced to the Epson--so that one must make and keep handy a reference card if one is using some other printer. It is possible to edit the Tasword Two help pages so they contain whatever printer (or other) information you require. Here's how:

First, referring to the existing Tasword Two help page and your printer manual, make a list of the printer features you wish to incorporate on your new help page. Because Tasword does not support automatic pagination, you will probably want to assign your printer's form-feed code to one of them. I also find it useful to have "reset" assigned to one of them. Putting the "reset" character at the end of each text file keeps you from starting off subsequent projects in unintended print modes. The illustration shows the list I devised for use with my Star SG-10 printer.

LOAD Tasword Two into your computer, go to the menu, choose "into Basic" and LIST Line 15. To the command 'LOAD "tasword" CODE' add the number "54784." Rewind your tape, RUN the program, type STOP and select "load text file" from the menu. When you are asked for a file name, ENTER "tasword" then play the Tasword Two tape.

When the file is loaded you should see the first Tasword help page (containing the printer commands) on your screen. What you have done is LOAD the Tasword Two machine code as a text file--so it may be edited! (Thanks to Pat Morrissey for this tip).

If you move the cursor up and down the file you will see that the two help pages are at the top of the file followed by the machine code. You may edit the help pages to contain any printer or other information you desire as long as you do not alter their length. If you inadverdently do so, you should reLOAD the file--since the system will crash if the machine code is moved around.

When you are satisfied with the edited pages (Don't forget to replace "Epson FX80" with the model number of your printer!) , put a fresh tape in your recorder, use "STOP" to return to the menu and choose "save text file" from the menu. Remember that the file must be saved as "tasword." When the file is SAVEd it is a good idea to VERIFY it.

To LOAD the new pages into Tasword Two, use the "into Basic" option on the menu, type GOTO 15 and play the new tape. When the LOAD is finished, experiment with typing and editing some text to make sure all the machine code is functioning properly. When you use EDIT you should see your edited version of the help pages.

If you have not already done so, now is the time to go to the "define graphics/printer" option and make your printer codes conform to the information on your new help page. Use the "save tasword" menu option to make a complete tape of the revised program.

If you use different 80-column printers you can create a version of Tasword Two for each of them.

-0-

<<< TASWORD TWO >>>

EDIT - - - help page
CAPS LOCK Capitals Lock
TRUE VIDEO cursor to word left
INV. VIDEO cursor to word right
ARROWS - - cursor movement
GRAPHICS - printer control chars >>>
DELETE - - delete character
<= - - - - move line left
<> - - - - centre line
>= - - - - move line right
AND - - - insert line/character
GR - - - - go to end of text
BT - - - - go to start of text
STOP - - - load/save/print text
BOT - - - delete line
STEP - - - reform to end of para
TO - - - - scroll down
THEN - - - scroll UP
ENTER - - start of next line

On Star SG-10 Off	
enlarged	Key 1
condensed	Key 2
underline	Key 3
italics	Key 4
emphasised	Key 5
DRAFT	Key 6
elite	Key 7
< Reset FF >	Key 8

CAPS + SYMBOL SHIFT - enter or leave extended mode
COPYRIGHT 1983 TASMAN SOFTWARE
ENTER returns to text. Both shift keys for the other help page.

Above: Tasword Two "Help" page--edited using the method described in the accompanying article.

COMPUTER CALENDAR

MAY _____

4 Golden West Computer Circus
Computer show and sale
San Jose Convention Center
(408)372-2281 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

19 Peninsula User Group 1 p.m.

23 East Bay Z80 User Group
7:30 p.m.

29
~~30~~ Silicon Valley ST User Group
(tenative) 7 p.m.

JUNE _____

16 Peninsula User Group 1 p.m.

20 East Bay Z80 User Group
7:30 p.m.

24
~~25~~ Silicon Valley ST User Group
(tenative) 7 p.m.

Upcoming SVSTUG Meetings:

Regular Meeting
Wednesday, May 29, 7:00 PM
Cupertino Library (downstairs)

Workshop Meeting
Thursday, May 30, 7:00 PM
Great Western Savings
Cupertino

Regular Meeting
Monday, June 24, 7:00 PM
Cupertino Library

Regular Meeting
Tuesday, July 30, 7:00 PM
Cupertino Library

Workshop Meeting
Wednesday, July 31, 7:00 PM
Great Western Savings
Cupertino

TIMES AND LOCATIONS MAY DIFFER, PLEASE CALL FIRST.

Maps sent to new and inquiring members.

East Bay Z80 User Group - EBZUG
654 40th Street
Richmond, CA 94805
(415)234-3310 evenings

PRESIDENT Rick Link
TREASURER Woody Mcpheeters
NEWSLETTER Rick Link

EBZUG meets the third or fourth Thursday of each month (call) at the WEST BRANCH BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY near the corner of University and San Pablo Avenues in Berkeley.

PENINSULA USER GROUP - PUG
263 Gateway No. 107,
Pacifica, CA 94044
(415)359-3198

CONTACT George Mockridge

PUG meets the third Sunday of each month at PENINSULA HOSPITAL, 1783 El Camino, Burlingame. Meeting room on lower level, bring equipment and extension cords if possible.

SVSTUG (Silicon Valley Sinclair Timex User Group)
and
Rita Carr's Newsletter Exchange

6675 Clifford Drive
Cupertino, CA 95014

Contact:
Rita Carr, President
408 738-2888 X4579 (days)

Bill Miller, Information Coordinator
408 253-3175 (anytime)

* * * * *

TIMELINEZ (c) is the joint publication of the three Timex/Sinclair user groups in the San Francisco Bay Area. New members and visitors are always welcome. To join send $15 per year for full membership, $10 per year for newsletter only, to TIMELINEZ, P.O. BOX 1312, PACIFICA, CA 94044.

FROM THE NOV. 84 N/L OF THE T/S USERS GROUP OF VANCOUVER.

PANIC by Aaron Day squeezes a fast-moving arcade game into the 1K ZX-81. You must steer your helicopter through the obstacles and land it on the mountain, using cursor keys 5 and 7 to control your machine. Day has used a number of sophisticated space-saving techniques to fit the program to the memory, including a short machine code routine. You must enter that separately.

Type in line 1 of the program and then type the following: POKE 16514,42 NEWLINE POKE 16515,14 NEWLINE POKE 16516,64 NEWLINE POKE 16517,78 NEWLINE POKE 16518,0 NEWLINE POKE 16519,0 NEWLINE POKE 16520,201 NEWLINE. Then type in the rest of the program. You will see that the REM statement contains a jumble of characters; that is the little machine code routine.

```
  1 REM XXXX*XXX
  5 FAST
 10 FOR F=SIN PI TO CODE "Q"
 20 PRINT AT RND*10,RND*22+2;"[illegible]
"
 30 NEXT F
 40 PRINT AT 10,25;"[illegible]";AT
9,26;"[illegible]";AT 8,27;"[illegible]"
 45 SLOW
 50 LET X=CODE "[illegible]"
 60 LET Y=SIN PI
 70 PRINT AT X,Y+1;
 80 LET P=USR 16514
 90 PRINT AT X,Y;"[illegible]"
100 IF P=136 THEN PRINT "[illegible]"
110 IF P=136 THEN STOP
120 PRINT AT X,Y;" "
130 LET Y=Y+1
140 IF Y<CODE "," THEN GOTO COD
E "COS "
150 IF X=CODE "[illegible]" THEN GOTO COD
E "[illegible]"
160 PRINT AT NOT PI,NOT PI;"[illegible]
[illegible]"
170 STOP
180 PRINT AT 2,NOT PI;"[illegible]
[illegible]"
190 STOP
200 LET X=X+(INKEY$="6")-(INKEY
$="7")
210 GOTO 70
```

From Sinclair User

FROM THE LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK, T/S N/L.

MICRODRIVES WORK!

Port Jefferson, N.Y. - Dec. 18, 1984. Nazir F. has successfully interfaced Sinclair Microdrives to his 2068 (with Emulator . He used a homebrew adapter board which simply rerouted the different pins for the various bus lines from his 2068 to their proper ZX Spectrum position (see back issues of LIST).

The only other changes, which may not have been required (experimentation is still going on) were the inclusion of a +12 V. (7812) regulator in place of the Spectrum RAM 12 V. (there is only a 16 V capacitor in the Spectrum Power Supply and the Timex Supply can go as high as 20 V - no load) and a -5 V supply. Both of these may actually only be required for the RS232 port.

Right now, IO REQGE and ROMCS are not hooked up either, but with no apparent problems.

Nazir also tells us that both Zebra and Doug Dewey are working on 2068-to-Spectrum bus adaptors.

Nazir's Spectrum, Microdrive and Interface I came with 5 tapes (Games & Education), TASWORD II and a utility called copier. This last, supplied by Sinclair, allows you to transfer programs from tape to microdrive. So far, no "protected" software has caused a problem.

FROM THE SINC-LINK N/L IN TORONTO, CANADA.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO USE THE "VU-CALC" PROGRAM, HERE IS A WAY TO MAKE USE OF THE [illegible] SIGNS "=", "<", ">" IN YOUR FORMULAS. IF THE COMPARISON IS TRUE THEN THE RESULT WILL BE A 1 AND IF NOT TRUE IT WILL BE 0. WHEN YOU MULTIPLY A NUMBER WITH THE RESULT OF A COMPARISON YOU WILL GET THE SAME NUMBER IF THE COMPARISON WAS TRUE AND 0 ZERO IF IT WAS FALSE.
HERE IS PART OF THE 1983 RATES OF FEDERAL INCOME TAX TABLE THAT IS USED AS AN EXAMPLE to CALCULATE THE FEDERAL TAX.

```
TAXABLE INCOME                 TAX
[illegible]-------1865+.19 OF NEXT 4716
11790-------1881+.20 OF NEXT 4716
[illegible]-------[illegible].25 OF NEXT 4716
```

	01	02	03
	TAXABLE	INCOME =	12000
	1ST CALC	FORMULA	2026.94
	>>>>>>>>	RESULT 1	0
	2ND CALC	FORMULA	2023
	>>>>>>>>	RESULT 2	2023
	3RD CALC	FORMULA	1887.62
	>>>>>>>>	RESULT 3	0
	FED. TAX	TOT CALC	2023

```
HERE ARE FORMULAS FOR BOXES 03
    NOTE -THEY ARE ALL ABSOLUTE.
B03=1865+(A03-7074)*.19
C03=B03*(A03>7074)*(A03<11790)
D03=1881+(A03-11790)*.20
E03=D03*(A03>11790)*(A03<16506)
F03=2824+(A03-16506)*.23
G03=F03*(A03>16506)*(A03<21222)
H03=G03+E03+C03

  TO JOG MY MEMORY I KEEP A CARD
WITH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION -

DONT "RUN" -GOTO 410 =MAIN MENU.
ERROR -GOTO 9000 =[illegible] ERROR.
DONT USE "D" TO DELETE FORMULA
AS IT WILL REDUCE THE AVAILABLE
NUMBER OF FORMULA (MAX. IS ONLY
40). TO NOT WASTE A FORMULA,
JUST CHANGE IT TO A SIMPLE 1+1
THEN MOVE IT TO A SPARE BOX AND
NOW YOU CAN DELETE IT FROM THE
ORIGINAL BOX. REPEAT THIS TO
MAKE USE OF THE STORED FORMULAS.
 BOX NUMBERS ARE ALWAYS 2 DIGITS
P=PRINTER          0=MAIN MENU
C=CALCULATE        L=LOAD DATA
H=CURSER HOME      D=DELETE FORMULA
F=LOAD FORMULA
    A=ABSOLUTE
    R=RELATIVE(COMPOUND INTEREST)
        C=MOVE ACCROSS-( TO )
        R=MOVE DOWN----(BOX?)
        E=EXIT
-------------BOB CROKER 1984---
```

4Mar85

Dear TIMELINEZ,

I wish to enhance the article in your January, 1985, issue submitted by John Roach dealing with users defined graphics. I believe the following program is much more expedient and clear when dealing with UDGs. Instead of two FOR/NEXT loops, you use only one.

```
100>FOR a=USR "a" TO USR "i"+7
110 READ user: POKE a,user
120 DATA 0,1,2,4,8,16,32,64,255
,128,128,128,128,128,128,128,255
,0,5,9,17,33,65,129,255,128,128,
128,128,128,128,128,255,129,129,
129,129,129,129,255,1,1,1,1,1,1,
1,255,129,130,132,136,144,160,19
2,255,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,255,2,4,8,16
,32,64,128,0
130 NEXT a
140 REM abc
       def
       ghi
```

I would also like to add to his Fancy Titles with the following subroutine. As you can see this routine allows you to print lines that are longer than your screen.

```
200>LET a$="I would also like t
o add to his Fancy Titles with t
he following subroutine. As you
can see this routine allows you
to print lines that are longer t
han your screen."
210 GO SUB 330: RETURN
327 REM **optional line break**
328 REM Use if you want to use
lines longer than your screen
330 IF LEN a$>32 THEN GO TO 380
340 LET b$=a$
350 LET a$=""
360 GO SUB 500
370 RETURN
380 LET y=32
390 FOR x=2 TO 33
400 IF a$(x)=" " THEN LET y=x-1
410 NEXT x
430 LET b$=a$( TO y)
440 LET a$=a$(y+2 TO )
450 GO SUB 500
460 LET vt=vt+1
470 GO TO 330
500 REM **the output routine**
510 LET m=LEN b$
520 IF m/2<>INT (m/2) THEN LET
b$=b$+" "
530 IF m/2<>INT (m/2) THEN LET
m=m+1
540 FOR n=1 TO m/2
550 PRINT AT vt,16-n;b$( TO n);
b$(m-n+1 TO )
560 NEXT n
570 RETURN
```

I hope these routines help your members. Thanks for your time.

j.e. smith
FASO Box55 NAS
FPO SANFRAN CA
96637-2710

COMPUTER FAIRE, INC.

Just a brief note to thank you for your participation in the 10th West Coast Computer Faire. Your company's presence greatly contributed to the overall success of the show and we trust your decision to exhibit was more than justified by the level of activity at your booth.

We are very pleased to announce that total attendance at the 10th Faire broke all previous records. The four day totals were 50,363. On Saturday, the first day of the Faire, our attendance was just under 20,000. Judging from informal reports given us by a number of exhibitors, the level of activity and sales in their booths was significantly greater than at past shows.

Again, on behalf of the entire Computer Faire staff, let me thank you for helping us continue to show that large numbers of qualified users and resellers will attend computer events that provide the information and value they demand.

Very truly yours,

David Sudkin
President

HARDWARE REVIEW

By Walt Gaby

THE BLUE CHIP PRINTER

For the Timex-Sinclair user, there are many 80-column dot-matrix printers in the marketplace, several of which claim to be the originally proposed TS 2080 printer. Names and specifications seem similar. Brand names include such printers as Axiom GP100A, Seikosha GP100A, ProWriter 8510, Gemini 10X, BMX-80, BMC BX-80, Memotech DMX80, Manasman Talley/Riteman (MT Spirit), Legend 880 (nee MT-80), and Blue Chip M120/10.

This article is about the latter....the Blue Chip. This printer uses square dots, has bi-directional printing, has both friction and traction feed, and prints 100 characters per second (CPS). It accepts standard centronics parallel input.

This review was written using a Timex-Sinclair 2068 computer, the Tasword Two word-processor, and the Blue Chip printer (with the Tasman Printer Interface).

The Blue Chip printer provides seven styles of lettering. Below are examples of each typing style, with the last word typed in all capitals. (The numbers on the left indicate the number of characters per line.)

80 The regular pica style looks like THIS.
80 The double-strike mode is DARKER.
80 The emphasized style is bolder in APPEARANCE.
80 This is an example of words in the proportional MODE.
96 This sentence is typed in the elite STYLE.
142 Here is a sentence typed in the condensed MODE.
40 And this is ENLARGED.

In addition, the printer provides for the underlining of words and phrases as needed. All of these options are determined from the keyboard with the use of the various graphic symbols.

Many other control options, including italics, are available on a switchboard which is located on top of the printer.

With the Tasman interface, there are two ways for the computer to drive the printer. The Tasword Two software already contains the necessary code for selecting typing styles and determining printer format. Therefore, no additional steps are needed.

However, when your computer is in the normal programming mode, it is necessary to load a few seconds of machine code. This code is easily developed by the user with the software provided with the Tasman Interface and is then loaded when you wish to use the printer.

The printer has its own set of graphic symbols. In my case, I have located 21 of these symbols in the shift/graphics A-thru-U keys as part of the code mentioned above. I am now able to call for the use of these symbols when I am doing programming.

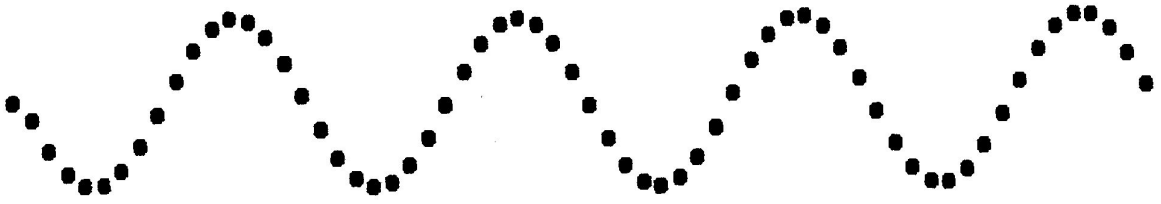
Using the printer's graphic symbols, I have generated several charts, including a bar distribution charts and sine curves! (This is possible because the printer can be programmed to run the paper forward and backward in order to draw such curves.)

Like so many manuals and documents that accompany hardware and software products in the world of computers, the manual for the Blue Chip is a bit difficult to follow. However, in its section discussing the international character-sets available for nine different countries, it was nice to see that we can select the character-sets for both "Engrand" and "Itary"!!!

This printer is marketed by Blue Chip Electronics, located in Tempe, Arizona. It is sold through several chain stores, including Best Products, where I purchased mine for $240. The Tasman Interface was acquired from Sunset Electronics for $90.

I believe that the Blue Chip printer is an exceptionally good machine. The price is also reasonable. It does everything that I want it to do...and I can tell from the manual that it will do much much more!!!

```
##########################################################################
100 REM *****    EXAMPLE OF DIRECTING BLUE CHIP PRINTER    *****
110 REM *******           TO PRODUCE A SINE WAVE           *******
120 REM ***********     WALT GABY  FEBRUARY 1985     ***********
130 REM
200 LET MAX=99
300 FOR I=.2 TO 12.76*2 STEP .4
310 LET Y= INT  ABS (100* SIN (I)+100)* SGN (100* SIN (I)+100)
320 IF Y>MAX THEN  LET YO=Y-MAX: LET MAX=Y: LPRINT "●"; CHR$ 27;
    CHR$ 27; CHR$  74; CHR$ 27; CHR$ YO;: GO TO 340
330 LET YO=MAX-Y: LET MAX=Y: LPRINT "●"; CHR$ 27;
    CHR$ 27; CHR$ 106; CHR$ 27; CHR$ YO;
340 NEXT I
```



PROGRAMMING TIPS FOR JANUARY:

Tips from the Mile High Chapter of the T/S Users Grp. of Colorado.

ARE YOU CONVERTING PROGRAMS FROM OTHER BASICS TO SINCLAIR ? HERE ARE A FEW CONVERSIONS TO HELP MAKE THE TASK EASIER:

```
      GET$     =   INKEY$
LEFT$(A$,N)    =   A$(1 TO N)
RIGHT$(A$,N)   =   A$(LEN(A$)-N+1 TO LEN(A$))
MID$(A$,N,M)   =   A$(M TO N)
     TL$(A$)   =   A$(2 TO)
```

DID YOU KNOW THAT TL$(A$) MEANS "TRUNCATE LEFT STRING" AND IT ELIMINATES TH FIRST CHARACTER OF THE CHOSEN STRING ?

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

SINCE NOVEMBER 1984, JIM MARCH HAS BEEN DOING AN EXCELLENT JOB AS NEWSLETTER COORDINATOR FOR TIMELINEZ. DUE TO OTHER COMMITMENTS, HOWEVER, JIM WILL NOT HAVE ENOUGH SPARE TIME TO CONTINUE THAT POSITION.

FORTUNATELY, THE "JUNGLE JIM" COLUMN WILL CONTINUE TO BE A REGULAR FEATURE OF THIS NEWSLETTER!

WALT GABY HAS AGREED TO ASSUME THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF COORDINATOR.

AGAIN, IN ORDER TO GET BACK ON A MONTHLY SCHEDULE, THIS ISSUE IS DESIGNATED AS THE APRIL/MAY ISSUE. AND AGAIN, TWO EXTRA PAGES HAVE BEEN ADDED. THE JUNE ISSUE WILL BE MAILED WELL AHEAD OF THE JUNE MEETINGS.

IN CLOSING, THE EDITORS OF THE THREE USER GROUPS URGE MEMBERS TO SEND IN ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION...REVIEWS OF SOFTWARE, HARDWARE OR BOOKS...REPORTS ON PROGRAMS OR PROJECTS THAT YOU ARE WORKING ON...TECHNIQUES AND TIPS...WHATEVER! WRITE ABOUT IT AND SHARE IT WITH YOUR FRIENDS!

(CONT. FROM FRONT PAGE)

give an error message and replacing the cartridge and typing RUN and Pressing ENTER got it running again.

The SuperBASIC seems to be about 30% slower than other BASICs, but we didn't have time to investigate why.

The QL Technical Guide (from Sinclair Research Ltd. USA-$20) seems to indicate that the QL will be easy to hook up expansion devices to.

An interesting expansion would seem to be: 512K RAM, Hard disk interface, and Parallel (Centronics style) printer port.

This is particularly interesting with 256K DRAMS currently costing $40 for a set of 8, and 5.25 in full hieght 5MB hard disks (with controller and power supply) costing $190!

We would like to thank Mary Reinman of Sinclair Research Ltd. USA for loaning us the QL. We look forward to getting a US version for a proper review (the one we had at the show was a UK version).

We would also like to thank John Warburton of Sunset Electronics for contributing $40 for a second table (in addition to the free one that came with the booth) so that we could display our computers out of the reach of the crowd.

Ray Hibbs of Amdek Corp. deserves our thanks for the loan of an Amdek 600 Color RGB monitor to use with the QL. Since it was a UK model, we couldn't use the composite video output.

Managing Editor	WALT GABY
Editors	
EBZUG	Rick Link
PUG	G. Mockridge
SVSTUG	Bill Miller
Advertising	
PUG	Norm Lehfeldt
EBZUG	Bill Strick
Circulation	Paris Moura
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USA

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